



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 1347

LCO No. 4722

04722_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2005*):

4 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, 10-16u, 17b-749a
5 and 17b-749c:

6 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
7 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
8 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, and (B)
9 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less
10 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible
11 children, except as provided in subsection (d) of said section 10-16q;

12 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age
13 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school

14 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
15 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 10-16t;

16 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
17 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
18 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,
19 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
20 section 10-266p or in a former priority school district receiving a grant
21 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and after July 1, 2001,
22 excluding such a school in a transitional school district receiving a
23 grant pursuant to section 10-16u;

24 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
25 pursuant to section 10-266p or in a former priority school district in
26 which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are served to
27 students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

28 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for
29 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review
30 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,
31 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the
32 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
33 Services;

34 (6) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year, except as provided in
35 subsection (d) of section 10-16q;

36 (7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education; [and]

37 (8) "Department" means the Department of Education; and

38 (9) "Transition to school" means a planned system of collaboration
39 and communication between preschool and kindergarten teachers,
40 families and schools, developed by school principals in conjunction
41 with a local or regional school readiness council and kindergarten
42 teachers (A) to facilitate students' successful passage from school
43 readiness programs to kindergarten classes, and (B) to ensure that

44 social, cognitive and literacy gains that children make in school
 45 readiness programs are sustained and expanded in kindergarten.

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Commissioner of Education
 47 shall establish a competitive grant program to assist (1) priority school
 48 districts that do not have full-day kindergarten, and (2) elementary
 49 schools not demonstrating adequate yearly progress, as defined in the
 50 state accountability plan prepared in accordance with section 10-223e
 51 of the general statutes, that do not have full-day kindergarten, to
 52 transition to a full-day kindergarten program. Grant funds shall be
 53 divided among successful applicants, and shall be used for equipment
 54 and materials necessary to start full-day kindergarten programs.
 55 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period. Grant awards
 56 shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars per classroom for up to one
 57 hundred classrooms state-wide, and shall be made annually, within
 58 available appropriations, contingent upon a satisfactory annual
 59 evaluation. Priority in awarding grants shall be given to those districts
 60 that establish full-day preschool programs and those districts that
 61 establish coordination, including a coordinated plan for transition to
 62 school, as defined in subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of section 10-16p
 63 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, teacher training and
 64 parent engagement, between full-day kindergarten programs and full-
 65 day preschool programs.

66 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The sum of two million dollars is
 67 appropriated to the Department of Education, from the General Fund,
 68 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for the competitive grant
 69 program established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | 10-16p(a) |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2005</i> | New section |

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a competitive grant program for full-day kindergarten in priority school districts.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]